

UNITED STATES SENATE Committee on Environment & Public Works Republican Staff



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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Facsimile:

Date: 25th January 2002

To: Hearing Clerk c/o Joyce McPherson

Location: Secretary Veneman USDA

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From: Office of Senator Bob Smith

Pages: 2
(including cover)

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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January 25, 2002

The Honorable Ann Veneman
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary:

The following comments are in regard to the proposed rule, Docket No. AO-14-A69, et al; DA-00-03, for Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas.

I am concerned that the recommended decision issued on October 19, 2001, by the Agriculture Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will unduly raise the minimum costs of milk used to manufacture cheese set by the USDA, thereby making cheese manufacturers in New England uncompetitive in the marketplace. This will put at risk their businesses along with the jobs of their employees and the market they provide for local farmer milk. I ask that the Department consider the impacts of any decision on the competitive environment for the Northeast and other regions as it relates to California, the largest milk producing state in the nation.

I request that you not implement the recommended decisions and that the hearing period be reopened for additional testimony and information.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Bob Smith
Ranking Member

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